

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-10 /052 W

----- 029992

R 111857Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2113

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AL, SP, FR

SUBJECT: INCIDENTS INVOLVING FRONTIER FORMALITIES
WITH ALGERIA AND SPAIN

1. MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTER OF INTERIOR PONIATOWSKI, LAST WEEK ACTED RAPIDLY TO PREVENT ESCALATION OF TWO UNRELATED INCIDENTS INVOLVING FRONTIER FORMALITIES WITH SPAIN AND ALGERIA. BOTH INCIDENTS ORIGINATED ON FOREIGN TERRITORY.

2. IN BEHOBIA, ON FRENCH-SPANISH BORDER, FRENCH CHECKPOINT HAS FOR SOME YEARS BEEN PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN SPANISH TERRITORY IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO SPANISH CHECKPOINT. INCIDENT BEGAN AUGUST 4 WHEN SPANISH INDIVIDUAL LEAPED FROM CAR AND RAN INTO FRENCH CHECKPOINT REQUESTING ASYLUM. AFTER SEVEN HOURS AND SOME PRESSURE FROM SPANISH, FRENCH AUTHORITIES SIMPLY WITHDREW ONTO FRENCH TERRITORY, LEAVING THIS INDIVIDUAL TO BE ARRESTED BY SPANISH POLICE. SPANISH IDENTIFIED HIM AS MEMBER OF BASQUE TERRORISTS ORGANIZATION (ETA). TENSIONS HAD THREATENED TO MOUNT SINCE GOF-GOS COOPERATION, OR LACK THEREOF, REGARDING CONTROL OF BASQUE SEPARATISTS

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IS SENSITIVE ISSUE, NOT ONLY BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS BUT LOCALLY. WHILE TIGHTER BORDER POLICE CHECKS WERE DELAYING PEAK HOLIDAY TRAFFIC, PONIATOWSKI VISITED THE AREA BY HELICOPTER. SUBSEQUENTLY. HE ORDERED ALL

FRENCH CHECKPOINTS IN THE AREA TO BE WITHDRAWN TO
FRENCH TERRITORY SO AS TO PRECLUDE FUTURE INCIDENTS
OF THIS KIND.

3. ON AUGUST 6, ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES PREVENTED SEVEN-
YEAR-OLD BORZANI KRADAoui FROM ACCOMPANYING HIS MOTHER
ON PLANE RETURNING TO FRANCE AFTER VACATION IN ALGERIA.
THIS RESULTED IN ACTIVE FRENCH MEDIA TREATMENT OF
CURRENT STATUS OF "HARKIS", FORMER ALGERIANS WHO
FOUGHT ON FRENCH SIDE DURING ALGERIAN WAR AND SUBSE-
QUENTLY OPTED FOR FRENCH CITIZENSHIP; THIS WAS STATUS
OF BORZANI'S FATHER. GOA AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING
ALGERIAN EMBASSY CHARGE IN PARIS, PORTRAYED INCIDENT
AS BUREAUCRATIC SNAG CAUSED BY MRS. KRADAoui'S FAILURE
TO PRODUCE PATERNAL AUTHORIZATION FOR HER SON'S DE-
PARTURE FROM ALGERIA AS PRESCRIBED BY LOCAL REGULATION.
MEANWHILE, KRADAoui'S PARENTS GAVE RADIO INTERVIEWS
ACCUSING GOA OF HOLDING THEIR SON HOSTAGE TO FORCE
KRADAoui'S RETURN TO FACE UNIMAGINABLE TREATMENT IN
ALGIERS. AS TENSIONS MOUNTED IN /HARKI REFUGEE CAMPS
IN SOUTHERN FRANCE, FRIENDS OF KRADAoui SEIZED ALGERIAN
MIGRANT WORKERS AND HELD THEM AS HOSTAGES PENDING THE
BOY'S RETURN.

4. AGAIN, PONIATOWSKI, WHO HAD VISITED ALGERIA EARLIER
THIS YEAR AND IS CONCERNED WITH ALL ASPECTS OF FRANCO-
ALGERIAN FRICTION, ACTED RAPIDLY. WHEN BORZANI
KRADAoui FAILED TO APPEAR ON SUBSEQUENT FLIGHT FROM

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2114

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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ALGERIA AS EXPECTED, GOF ANNOUNCED THAT AN OFFICER OF
THE FRENCH CORPS OF PREFECTS WOULD BE GOING TO ALGIERS

BY MILITARY PLANE TO PRECLUDE FURTHER DELAY. BORZANI
KRADAOUI FINALLY RETURNED SAFELY TO FRANCE AUGUST 8
AND ALGERIAN HOSTAGES WERE RELEASED. ON THE BASIS OF
A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISION OF AUGUST 6,
PONIATOWSKI HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ALL //HARKI CAMPS WILL BE
CLOSED AND NECESSARY MEASURES TAKEN TO INTEGRATE THEIR
INMATES AY. BORZANI
KRADAOUI FINALLY RETURNED SAFELY TO FRANCE AUGUST 8
AND ALGERIAN HOSTAGES WERE RELEASED. ON THE BASIS OF
A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISION OF AUGUST 6,
PONIATOWSKI HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ALL //HARKI CAMPS WILL BE
CLOSED AND NECESSARY MEASURES TAKEN TO INTEGRATE THEIR
INMATES INTO FRENCH LIFE.

5. COMMENT: PONIATOWSKI IS SOMETIMES CRITICIZED IN
FRANCE FOR PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND PARTY POLITICS THAN TO ADMINISTERING THE INTERIOR
MINISTRY. WHILE IT IS PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE TO EXERCISE
EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER ALL THE INTERIOR MINISTRY'S
RESPONSIBILITIES, PONIATOWSKI CONTINUES TO DEMONSTRATE
A FINE SENSITIVITY TO POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATIONS,
ON WHICH HE ACTS DRAMATICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY. OTHER-
WISE, WE DO NOT CONSIDER THESE ANECDOTES SIGNIFICANT
OF ANYTHING EXCEPT THE CONTINUED DANGER OF FLARE-UPS
IN FRANCE'S RELATIONS WITH ITS SOUTHERN FLANK. THE
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CONTENTIOUS ISSUES REMAIN UNRESOLVED, WITH BOTH SPAIN
AND ALGERIA. PONIATOWSKI SEEMS TO SHARE GISCARD'S
PREFERENCE FOR TREATING THE MOST DRAMATIC PROBLEMS
FIRST, HOPING THE OTHERS WILL GO AWAY.
GAMMON

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